

Newsletter from September 6th, 2007

1. The EU, China and the quest for a multilateral world!

- *IFRI conference entitled "The EU, China and the quest for a multilateral world."*
- *Deepening of relations between China and the EU is the natural consequence of great changes in the international situation!*

The accelerated rise of the Chinese economy and the deepening of its relationship with the EU are likely to facilitate a change of forces in the international system and help promote the multipolarisation of international relations, argued panelists at a 2006 IFRI conference entitled "The EU, China and the quest for a multilateral world."

The report first looks back at the thirty years of EU-China cooperation since formal diplomatic relations were established in 1975.

The second part looks to the future of the relationship, with regard to new global issues such as sustainable development and the internal evolution of both partners.

Following 25 years of continuous development, China has become the third-largest trader in the world. Meanwhile, the EU has expanded - both geographically and politically - and the world has experienced major changes, making countries in the globalisation process increasingly interdependent.

The report therefore concludes that the deepening of relations between China and the EU is the natural consequence of great changes in the international situation.

China and the EU, although very different, also share major strategic concerns whose solutions depend on the widening and strengthening of the multilateral system, states the report.

Multilateralism, as described by Professor Xu Jian, is the "mechanism by which nation states re-adjust the way in which sovereignty is performed so as to better define both state interest and the common interest of the international community."

According to the panelists, China shares the European view of a world governed by rules created and monitored by multilateral institutions.

While China and the EU already have a complementary economic relationship in manufacturing activities, the energy sector could lead to growing mutual benefits in the future.

Moreover, as global players, the EU and China have a responsibility to work together to address the global challenges facing the world today – climate change, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and conflict resolution, say the authors; EU-China relations will therefore go from strength to strength, even if both must work hard to retain their position as global actors, concludes the report.

Source: EurActiv.com

2. Enough greenwashing, its time to act, Greenpeace tells HCL!

- *The presence of harmful chemicals in electronic products and computers, including those sold by HCL, is confronting India with an environmental nightmare!*
- *Greenpeace criticised HCL's position on hazardous chemical phaseout!*

Greenpeace activists staged a “shame-HCL” protest at the company’s headquarters in Noida, demanding that the company make clear and binding commitments to green its operations. Unfurling a banner that read “Hazardous Chemicals unLimited”, Greenpeace activists occupied the roof of the security hut and refused to move until the company accepted its demands to end the use of hazardous chemicals in its products and accept responsibility for its end-of-life products.

Greenpeace criticised HCL’s position on hazardous chemical phaseout, recently announced on its website (1), as misleading ‘greenwash’. HCL has talked about “striving” to phase out PVC and BFRs, once “economically viable technical solutions” exist.

“Greenpeace is reminding HCL, the Indian market leader, that they cannot evade responsibility by voicing vague aspirations, with no clear time commitments (1). They must have a time-bound, operational road map, with binding commitments, to phase out all toxics and implement a free and easy take back system,” said Pranav Sinha, Greenpeace Toxics Campaigner. “The solutions already exist! If global electronics leaders can move in less than a year to free their products of toxics and implement take back programmes, what is holding HCL back? Are they unable to compete at the highest level?” Sinha queried.

The presence of harmful chemicals in electronic products and computers, including those sold by HCL, is confronting India with an environmental nightmare. Greenpeace has discovered scientific evidence of worker and community exposure to toxic chemicals from e-waste (3) (4). Going by government estimates, it would be possible to postulate that HCL, via its desktop sales, might have distributed several million kilos of plastics and electronic components that could contain PVC, lead and BFRs (2). These are potent toxins that can cause severe health problems, and some have been phased out in most countries through legislation such as RoHS (5).

“If HCL does not want to be seen as a major contributor to the e-waste crisis, it must not only take urgent steps to clean its products of all hazardous substances, but also lead India’s IT brigade by setting practical and transparent systems of take back and recycling of end of life products, with clear financial brand responsibility (6)”, continued Sinha.

Most global companies are now marketing products free of some of the worst chemicals, while designing even cleaner products for the future. Some Sony Vaio laptops already have Printed Circuit Boards that are totally BFR free. Panasonic, Nokia, Sony Ericsson and Motorola also have electronic products that are completely PVC free.

By confronting HCL, Greenpeace is issuing a warning to all other Indian and global electronics companies on their practices in India. Greenpeace wants clear evidence that there are no double standards in India with respect to RoHS compliance and global commitments on hazardous substance phase out and on take back policies.

“In the total absence of any Indian e-waste legislation, our country will continue to be inundated with products containing hazardous substances. A level playing field can be ensured only when Indian IT majors like HCL proactively engage the government to first implement a mandatory RoHS-like measure in India, and then implement legislation based on the concept of Individual Producer Responsibility”, reiterated Pranav Sinha.

Source: One World South Asia

3. China RoHS Conference in Germany on September 27th 2007!

- *We have succeeded to get top-class speaker out of Chinese Government and the European Economy!*
- *Invitation and content can be downloaded!*

China is raring to go solving its environmental problems. Because of the close economical relation between the German industry and the Chinese market, this regulation deserves closer attention. One can expect, that the restriction of use that are also known from the EU RoHS, will apply in a similar or tougher extent for the German imports of Electric or electrical Appliances to China. We want to bring you in time together with Chinese experts.

We have succeeded to get top-class speaker out of Chinese Government and the European Economy.

We would be very kind, to welcome you to this event with the topic China RoHS at 27. September 2007 at Deutschen Stiftung Umwelt in Osnarück (Germany).

The invitation can be downloaded here:

http://de.ce-weee.com/index.php/160/Veranstaltung_zur_China_RoHS

A detailed agenda, the conditions and the possibility for an enrolment can you get with immediate effect under

<http://de.ce-weee.com/index.php/162/Anmeldung>